Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 13 (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) ~~A method for forming an image comprising: providing the photothermographic material according to claim 1 substantially in the form of a sheet,~~ The image forming method according to claim 18, comprising imagewise exposing a part of the sheet and simultaneously developing a part of the sheet that has already been imagewise exposed.

15. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The image forming method ~~of a photothermographic material~~ according to claim 14, wherein the photothermographic material ~~according to claim 1~~ is imagewise exposed using a laser.

16. (original) The image forming method according to claim 15, wherein the laser is a laser diode.

17. (original) The image forming method according to claim 16, wherein the laser diode has a light-emission peak intensity in the wavelength of 350 nm to 450 nm.

18.(new) An image forming method with a photothermographic sheet material, comprising imagewise exposing and thermally developing the photothermographic sheet material;

wherein the photothermographic material comprising at least a photosensitive silver halide having an average silver iodide content of 40% by mole or more, a non-photosensitive

organic silver salt, a reducing agent and a binder, and a compound expressed by the following formula (H):

Formula (H): $Q-(Y)_N-C(Z_1)(Z_2)X$

wherein Q represents an alkyl group, an aryl group or a hetero ring group; Y represents a divalent linkage group; N represents 0 or 1; Z_1 and Z_2 each independently represent a halogen atom; and X represents a hydrogen atom or an electron-withdrawing group;

and the thermally developing being started within 60 sec after imagewise exposure the photothermographic sheet material.

19.(new) The image forming method according to claim 18, wherein the average silver iodide content of the photosensitive silver halide is 90% by mole or more.

20. (new) The image forming method according to claim 18, wherein the photosensitive silver halide is formed in the absence of the non-photosensitive organic silver salt.

21. (new) The image forming method according to claim 18, wherein the thermal development is started within 30 sec after the imagewise exposure.

22.(new) The image forming method according to claim 18, wherein the thermal development is started within 15 sec after the imagewise exposure.

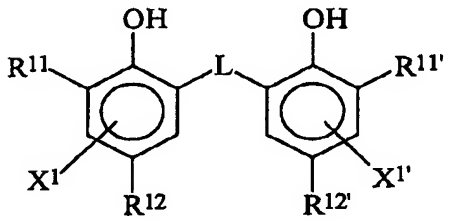
23.(new) The image forming method according to claim 18, wherein an average grain size of the photosensitive silver halide is 5 nm to 80 nm.

24.(new) The image forming method according to claim 18, wherein an average grain size of the photosensitive silver halide is 5 nm to 30 nm.

25.(new) The image forming method according to claim 18, wherein the photosensitive silver halide is chemically sensitized.

26.(new) The image forming method according to claim 18, comprising a compound that can be one-electron-oxidized to provide a one-electron oxidation product which releases one or more electrons.

27.(new) The image forming method according to claim 18, comprising a compound expressed by the following general formula (R):



wherein R^{11} and $R^{11'}$ each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, R^{12} and $R^{12'}$ each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a group capable of substituting for a hydrogen atom on a benzene ring, L represents a -S- group or a $-CHR^{13}-$ group, R^{13} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and X^1 and $X^{1'}$ each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a group capable of substituting for a hydrogen atom on a benzene ring.

28. (new) The image forming method according to claim 18, comprising a developing accelerator.

29.(new) The image forming method according to claim 18, comprising a hydrogen bonding compound.